

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Crawford [32,122].

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 2, before "resistor sub-bodies", insert -- elongated --.

In claim 1, line 4, before "two of the columns", insert -- and along --.

In claim 1, line 9, delete "wherein each tap of the columns of taps is configured for outputting an output potential via a contact area which is connected with the concerning tap.", and insert -- at least two taps in one of the plurality of column of taps are configured to provide respectfully different output potentials due to respective locations at which said at least two taps connect to the one or more of the resistor sub-bodies.—

In claim 3, line 1, delete "characterised", and insert -- characterized --.

In claim 4, line 1, delete "characterised", and insert -- characterized --.

In claim 5, line 1, delete "characterised", and insert -- characterized --.

In claim 6, line 1, delete "characterised", and insert -- characterized --.

In claim 7, line 2, delete "characterised", and insert -- characterized --.

In claim 7, line 4, before "resistor sub-bodies", insert -- elongated --.

In claim 7, line 5, after "resistor sub-bodies situated between", insert -- and along --.

In claim 7, line 6, after “each of the taps of the column of taps,”, insert – with electrical connection between respective sub-bodies being exclusively via the taps connected to the resistor sub-bodies --.

In claim 7, line 11, delete “wherein each tap of the column of taps is configured for outputting an output potential via a contact area which is connected with the concerning tap, and wherein electrical connection between the resistor sub-bodies are exclusively via the taps connected with the resistor sub-bodies.” and insert -- and each tap of the column of taps is configured for outputting an output potential. --.

In claim 8, line 2, delete “characterised”, and insert -- characterized --.

In claim 8, line 4, before “resistor sub-bodies”, insert -- elongated --.

In claim 8, line 5, after “resistor sub-bodies situated between”, insert – and along --.

In claim 8, line 6, after “each of the taps of the column of taps,”, insert – with electrical connection between respective sub-bodies being exclusively via the taps connected to the resistor sub-bodies --.

In claim 8, line 11, delete “wherein each tap of the column of taps is configured for outputting an output potential via a contact area which is connected with the concerning tap, and wherein electrical connection between the resistor sub-bodies are exclusively via the taps connected with the resistor sub-bodies.” and insert -- and each tap of the column of taps is configured for outputting an output potential. --.

In claim 12, line 2, before “resistor sub-bodies”, insert -- elongated --.

In claim 12, line 3, after “resistor sub-bodies situated between”, insert – and along --.

Claims 1-8 and 12-16 are allowed

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 recite, inter alia, a resistor body that includes multiple elongated resistor sub-bodies, and a plurality of columns of taps, each of the resistor sub-bodies situated between and along two of the columns of taps and connected to each of the taps of the two columns of taps, with electrical connection between respective sub-bodies being exclusively via the taps connected to the respective resistor sub-bodies.

The references of record do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitation, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSELITO BAISA whose telephone number is (571)272-7132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 am to 2:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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